

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01 L-03

OMB-01 SAJ-01 TRSE-00 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9003

CINCUSNAVEUR

COMUSFORAZ

CINCLANT

INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

CNO WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 0247

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PO, US

SUBJECT: GOP CONCERN OVER U.S. ACTIONS CONCERNING  
LAJES FIELD

REF: CINCUSNAVEUR TEL 051638Z JUN 73 TO MOD PORTUGAL

USNATO PASS COPY SACLANTREPEUR BRUSSELS

SUMMARY: GOP HAS EXPRESSED TO EMBASSY ITS FEELING THAT  
U.S. DECISIONS TO INSTALL TACTICAL SUPPORT CENTER AT  
LAJES AND TO RETAIN USAF AS HOST BOTH APPEAR TO SUGGEST  
THAT U.S. CONSIDERS RENEWAL OF BASE RIGHTS AS FOREGONE  
CONCLUSION. BELIEVE EMBASSY RESPONSE HAS SUCCESSFULLY  
DISABUSED THEM OF THAT NOTION. END SUMMARY

1. DURING CALL BY DCM JANUARY 18, DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR  
POLITICAL AFFAIRS FREITAS CRUZ SAID THAT HE AHD BEEN  
ASKED BY FOREIGN MINISTER PATRICIO TO CONVEY PATRICIO'S  
AND PRIME MINISTER CAETANO'S "SURPRISE" UPON LEARNING  
THAT U.S. WAS PROCEEDING TO INSTALL MAJOR NEW SYSTEM  
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AT LAJES, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS SOPHISTICATED HIGHLY

EFFICIENT SYSTEM FOR TRACKING ATOMIC SUBMARINES LINKED DIRECTLY TO CINCLANT AT NORFOLK. HE SAID PRIME AND FOREIGN MINISTERS EQUALLY SURPRISED TO LEARN FROM PORTUGUESE AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF THAT LATTER HAD BEEN TOLD BY GENERAL COMSTOCK THAT USG HAD MADE DECISION FOR USAF TO RETAIN HOST RESPONSIBILITY FOR U.S. ACTIVITIES AT LAJES. BOTH OF THESE ACTIONS ARE INTERPRETED BY GOP TO IMPLY THAT U.S. CONSIDERS IT A FOREGONE CONCLUSION THAT U.S. BASE RIGHTS AT LAJES WILL BE RENEWED, WHICH SEEMS RATHER PRESUMPTUOUS TO GOP WHEN LAST ACCORD DUE TO EXPIRE IN TWO WEEKS AND NEGOTIATIONS HAVE HARDLY BEGUN.

2. DCM RESPONDED THAT HE ASSUMED NEW INSTALLATION REFERRED TO WAS TACTICAL SUPPORT CENTER WHICH WOULD ENABLE DATA GATHER BY ASW AIRCRAFT TO BE TRANSMITTED INSTANTANEOUSLY TO NORFOLK. IF SO, DCM GAVE AS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT THIS INSTALLATION HAD LONG BEEN PLANNED BY USN, AND THAT THE UNITS INVOLVED WERE HIGHLY PORTABLE AND COULD BE QUICKLY REMOVED IF BASE ACCORD NOT RENEWED. THEIR INSTALLATION AT LAJES THEREFORE SHOULD IN NO WAY BE CONSTRUED AS IMPLYING U.S. CONSIDERS RENEWAL OF ACCORD A CERTAINTY. (AFTER CONFERRING WITH GENERAL COMSTOCK LATER THAT EVENING, DCM CALLED FREITAS CRUZ JANUARY 19 TO CONFIRM FOREGOING.)

3. CONCERNING DECISION FOR HOST RESPONSIBILITY TO REMAIN WITH USAF RATHER THAN GO TO NAVY, DCM SAID THAT HE WAS NOT FULLY PRIVY TO ALL OF THE CONSIDERATIONS THAT WENT INTO THAT DECISION. ONE COULD WELL CONJECTURE, HOWEVER, THAT THE DECISION WAS BASED IN PART ON THE INADVISABILITY OF SWITCHING FROM ONE SERVICE TO ANOTHER, WITH ALL OF THE EXPENSE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DIFFICULTIES THAT WOULD CAUSE, AT A TIME WHEN THERE IS UNCERTAINTY SURROUNDING THE STATUS OF U.S. TENURE AT THE BASE. THUS GOP SHOULD LOOK UPON THIS DECISION IN PRECISELY THE OPPOSITE SENSE THAN THAT FREITAS CRUZ HAD PRESENTED.

4. IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION, FREITAS CRUZ INDICATED  
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THAT HE HAD DONE CONSIDERABLE RESEARCH ON THE LAST BASE AGREEMENT AND CONFIRMED DCM'S ASSUMPTION THAT SIX MONTH GRACE PERIOD FOR NEGOTIATIONS ENSUES AFTER FEBRUARY 4 EXPIRY OF AGREEMENT.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED COPY OF REFTTEL WHICH CONSTITUTES REQUEST FROM CINCUSNAVEUR TO PORTUGUESE MOD FOR APPROVAL OF TACTICAL SUPPORT

CENTER'S INSTALLATION AT LAJES. WE HAVE SEEN  
NOTHING, HOWEVER, INDICATING THAT GOP MOD HAS IN FACT  
GIVEN APPROVAL AND WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING STATUS  
OF MATTER.  
SCOTT

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY BASES, AIR FORCE  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 21 JAN 1974  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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